

Integral Faith

“Homily helps and liturgy resources highlighting care for our common home.”



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 2nd Sunday in Lent, March 1, 2026, Cycle A

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Genesis 12 “All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you.” ...Abram went as the LORD directed him.

Psalms 33 I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth...all his works are trustworthy...The earth is full of the mercy of the LORD.

Matthew 17 Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

† Comments for the Day:

In today’s Gospel, Jesus takes the disciples to the mountaintop and there he revealed his divinity. He also invites the apostles and us, to follow him in such a manner that is a true blessing for the communities of all the Earth.

A mountaintop view is one that allows people to change their perspective from which to view the world. One can see from a mountaintop, things that easily go unnoticed in the hustle of daily life, below. Today, the world is looking for help. One ecological disaster right after the other tells us that God’s people have harmed God’s creation and, in turn, are being harmed by nature we can’t control. But that kind of a relationship with the natural world was not God’s intent. Even though we opened that gift with great joy, we have not honored the gift and have even walked away from it. We have harmed mountains, hills, valleys, lakes, rivers – and now all of creation calls to us in crisis. Will we answer the call? Will we truly be those disciples – through which “All the communities of the earth shall find blessing?” Through numerous vehicles God provides, we can do just that.

All over the world, many people are working to save our common home. One place is the Catholic Ecology Center (CEC) in Nesho, WI whose mission is to deepen faith and foster a stewardship ethic through hands-on encounters with the natural world. Through educational programming, retreats, stewardship projects, recreational outings, and partnerships with schools and parishes. As a non-profit started in 2016, in 2021, the *Laudato Si Project* began. For the CEC, it was the natural next step in response to Pope Francis’ Encyclical *Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home*.

This resource is provided by Catholic Climate Covenant in collaboration with the Integral Faith Team, a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

Another place stressing ecology and stewardship is found in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State. Holden Village, is a retreat center owned and managed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The community values environmental stewardship, and is committed to creating a just, sustainable and compassionate world and welcomes all people into the wilderness to form and renew their relationships with God, the earth, and each other.

There are many places like Holden Village and CEC that are working to save this world - one person at a time. God sent His Son to save us and Jesus did. This world is our home and we need commitment to saving it. Let us take the words Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'* to heart and work together - all of us - all over the world.

† **Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:**

The Lord was able to invite others to be attentive to the beauty that there is in the world because he himself was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attention full of fondness and wonder. As he made his way throughout the land, he often stopped to contemplate the beauty sown by his Father and invited his disciples to perceive a divine message in things: “Lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest.” (97)

We are always capable of going out of ourselves towards the other. Unless we do this, other creatures will not be recognized for their true worth; we are unconcerned about caring for things for the sake of others; we fail to set limits on ourselves in order to avoid the suffering of others or the deterioration of our surroundings. Disinterested concern for others, and the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment. (208)

Ecological education can take place in a variety of settings: at school, in families, in the media, in catechesis and elsewhere. Good education plants seeds when we are young, and these continue to bear fruit throughout life. (213)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1 Oh God of the water and the seas, the mountains and the hills, the deserts and all other creations of this world, help us to find ways to bring water equity to all. Let us show the world your love through these many gifts. Amen.

Option 2 God, you are the path to all of your children to have what they need. Help all of us to work together to make sure that the poor of this world have the water and food that they need. In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

Webpage: www.ecologicallife.com

